

Before the Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of EB Docket 06-119: Public comments in response to recommendations presented by the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communication Networks.

Comments of Clay Redden, KC4YAU, Prattville, Alabama

Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the recommendations presented by the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communication Networks.

I was licensed as a Technician Class amateur radio operator – commonly referred to as a No-Code Technician – with the call sign of KC4YAU on March 26, 1991. My license was renewed on March 27, 2001. It is set to expire March 27, 2011.

I also was issued the General Mobile Radio Service call sign of WQES254 on April 1, 2006. It is set to expire on April 1, 2011.

I also was issued a Federal Communications Commission Radio Telephone Third Class Operator Permit with Broadcast Endorsement (Number P3-6-52947) on June 21, 1976.

Although not expressed publicly, it appears that the Commission is reluctant to implement changes proposed to the Amateur Radio Service resulting from the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

Three years have passed since WRC-03 and numerous countries have eliminated the Morse Code requirement for access to the high frequency sections of the Amateur Radio Service and automatically upgraded licensees to operate on those frequencies.

Had the Commission acted sooner to implement changes to the Amateur Radio Service put forth by the American Radio Relay League, no doubt there would be an increased number of General Class operators in this country with access to the high frequency spectrum to respond to disasters of all types

That being said, because of the Commission's reluctance to implement the above mentioned recommended changes, it only makes sense for the Commission to provide automatic grants of Special Temporary Authority to Amateur Radio operators in declared disaster areas to provide emergency communications.

I can speak with some authority.

I worked several shifts at the Amateur Radio Station at Red Cross Disaster Staging Area in Montgomery, Alabama following Hurricane Katrina.

However, because I hold only a Technician Class license, a General Class operator or higher had to supervise my activities. It seemed to me, that my presence – though appreciated – prevented those higher class operators from conducting other activities associated with the station at the staging center.

That compelled me to return exclusively to SKYWARN activities on VHF frequencies for which I am licensed for.

I sincerely hope the commission will provide automatic grants of Special Temporary Authority to Amateur Radio operators in declared disaster areas to provide emergency communications.

Thank you for allowing me to address this issue.

Sincerely

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